Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: No.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Has the Government considered the desirability of giving extra ration during the Christmas?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: No.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Why? It is necessary.

PRICE OF PADDY—RAISING OF

9. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they are aware of the very disappointing results of harvest this year for the first crop;

(*b*) whether in view of the bad returns of agriculture and the consequent loss to the agriculturist the Government will be pleased to place the purchasing price of paddy on a level at least with the neighbouring State of Travancore?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The price of paddy was revised very recently by increasing the price to Rs. 1—6—0. per para.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: May I know, Sir, the price then prevailing in the adjoining places of Travancore according to Government control rates?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: The rate in Travancore was Re. 1—8—0 according to Travancore para which worths at Re. 1—6—10·6 pies according to our para.

DRAINAGE—ERNAKULAM AND MATTANCHERI—IMPROVEMENT OF

10. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Will Government be pleased to state whether they have any scheme for improving the drainage system of Ernakulam and Mattancheri?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: The question of improving the drainage of Ernakulam and Mattancheri has engaged the attention of the Government. The preliminary investigation of the scheme has been completed. Further work on it has been postponed for the duration of the war.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Have the Government a fully prepared drainage scheme?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: The investigation of the scheme has been completed and estimated and quantities also have been prepared. The cost had not been calculated and some minor details have to be completed.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know, Sir, for how many years has this drainage scheme for Mattancheri been pending with the Government?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: During the last 20 years. We have been taking up the improvement of the Towns of Ernakulam and Mattancheri steadily. We thought that a supply of drinking water was a much greater necessity in Mattancheri than the drainage and that also was a large proposition. We have now completed that work. And then we have taken the question of drainage and it is only recently that the expert came and the investigations completed. Before we actually decided on the question, conditions became difficult and so the scheme was postponed.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Thank you for the information. My question was for how many years this drainage scheme has been pending?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: It is not possible to say for how many years. According to me, it would have been pending with the beginning of civilisation.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: How many Diwans have dealt with the drainage scheme?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: I want notice.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know, Sir, when you came to office as Chief Engineer was the drainage scheme pending?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: It was not pending.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: How many years after you took charge did this scheme come up for consideration?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: The scheme came up for consideration 6 or 7 years ago.

Mr. A. B. Salem *Mattancheri)*: May I know whether there was a special Engineer brought down to work out an under-ground drainage scheme in Mattancheri?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Yes. That was about 6 years ago.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know the name of the gentleman?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Mr. A. V. Rama Ayyar of Madras P. W. D.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: What was the travelling allowance paid?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: A very small remuneration.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: All the expenditure in connection with the gentleman has been debited to the appropriate head? Was that scheme published?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: It was sent to the Municipalities concerned.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Did the Municipality ask for a Town Improvement Committee in this Council to handle this scheme?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Not that I know of.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Was there a resolution in this House for a Town Improvement Committee so that they can handle the drainage, etc.

Mr. V. K Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Yes.

SCARCITY OF WATER—TRICHUR—MEASURES REGARDING

11. Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North)*: Will Government be pleased to state the measures, if any, taken to solve the problem of scarcity of water in the Trichur Town?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Street hydrants have been installed fairly extensively in all parts of the town where scarcity is felt. An additional tank with a capacity of about 40,000 gallons a day will be completed and put into service during this dry season.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North)*: May I know whether the Naduthode scheme as far as the supply of drinking water to Trichur is kept in abeyance?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: The Naduthode scheme in so far as it relates to supply of drinking water to the Trichur Town is definitely kept in abeyance; because the most difficult part in the execution of the scheme is the purchase of cast iron pipes, and iron pipes are very scarce now and cannot be had.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North)*: Will the Government be pleased to give an assurance that it will be taken up when the conditions improve?

Mr. V.K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: It is not possible to give an assurance. It will receive our consideration.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: Can we have some hydrants?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Yes. Many more hydrants.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know, Sir, whether this new tank with about 40,000 gallons capacity will satisfy the needs of Trichur?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Not completely. It will satisfy the needs of Trichur to a very large extent.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Is there scope, Sir, to have near about Trichur one more additional tank with the same or more capacity just as the one we have taken up.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Yes. More tanks can be built.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Therefore, may I take it, Sir, whether the Naduthode scheme cannot with advantage, be given up as these two or more tanks for which there is scope in Trichur as just now admitted by the Hon'ble Member for Public Works, being taken up to meet the water scarcity.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: By having many small tanks I do not think it will be possible to have the same quantity of water for the town as will be available from a large scheme of the Naduthode and the cost of constructing several tanks also is a very material point. The cost of the Naduthode reservoir and laying pipes may not be very much greater than the cost of several tanks of the same capacity.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know whether this Naduthode scheme is not standing, Sir, in the way of the construction of a very important road connecting the Taluks of Trichur and Talappalli whose alignment had been completed and funds provided for years back.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Does that question arise? We are on the subject of water supply to the Trichur Town and the member asks whether the Naduthode scheme does not stand in the way of constructing a road.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: My question, Sir, was whether the Naduthode scheme from where water was proposed to be supplied to Trichur had not stood in the way of the important road work mentioned is kept in abeyance. I want to know whether the Naduthode scheme which is now kept in abeyance, rather practically given up is not standing in

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly